



City of Helena

GOLF ADVISORY BOARD SUMMARY May 9, 2017



- Pete Aspinwall
- Dave Bauer
- Kelly Casey
- Tyson Lesmeister

- Judy Reddy
- Susan Skinner-Bannon
- Lynn Staley

Ex-Officio Members

- Larry Kurokawa, Golf Course Superintendent
- Scott Longenecker, Head Golf Pro
- Amy Teegarden, Parks and Recreation Director
- Jennifer Schade, Recorder

LOCATION: City-County Building, Room 326

Visitors: Al Knauber, Doug Olson

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum/Review Agenda

Chairman Pete Aspinwall called the Bill Roberts Golf Course Advisory Board meeting to order at 12:00 pm. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Minutes: April 11, 2017

Dave mentioned that there is an error on page 3 under the Golf Professional Report, 3rd bullet - pro "chop". Jennifer noted said correction.
With no further errors, Sue moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Lynn seconded. Motion carried.

3. Old Business

Final Review of Bill Roberts Golf Advisory Board Bylaws

- Pete submitted a copy of the bylaws for board review. He highlighted some areas he felt need to be changed or deleted. Lynn asked for the reason behind deleting the secretary appointment. We no longer elect a secretary to serve on the board as the parks administrative assistant attends the meetings.
- Amy recommended removing the secretary signature line on page 4 and adding the vice chairperson.
- As the board was in agreement with all changes made, Lynn moved to approve the BRGC Bylaws as presented. Tyson seconded. Motion carried.

Update on the new Clubhouse/Pro Shop

Mission Statement: The Bill Roberts Golf Course is committed to providing a high quality, friendly, and affordable public golfing experience for all ages and abilities within the greater Helena community!

- On April 24th, the city commission approved the resolution of findings for the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) process. As a result of their approval, we have advertised the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Those proposals are due this Friday.
- Next Monday, Amy, Troy and Jeff will begin the review of the submitted RFQ's. Based on their review, we will send out a RPF to those who meet our minimum qualifications which will be another two-week process.
- In the meantime, we have issued the second phase of contract to include engineering and design plans for Mosaic and they are working on that.
- Pete asked for a final cost estimate. Once we hire the general contractor, they will work with Mosaic on the final designs. They will provide us with a guarantee maximum price. If their figures are within our budget, we will begin the loan process. This will most likely be at least another six-week process.
- In August, we will begin looking at transition and construction.
- From a GAB and staff perspective, while they are working on the final design and engineering, now is the time for us to focus on the interior design work, a name for the restaurant, and the finalization of the menu.
- We will bring these items to the next GAB meeting for discussion. Amy also stated she will have a detailed conversation with Jeff about how this process will work and bring back more information in June.
- Gery told Amy to hold off on posting information until some final design work is done.

4. New business

- None.

5. Reports

Parks and Recreation Director's Report

- No formal report

Golf Superintendent Report

- Golf maintenance has been very busy. With the onset of nice weather, they are spraying dandelions in morning. In the last 4 days, Larry stated they have sprayed approximately 30 acres averaging about 5 hours per day.
- They are also aerating, seeding, and top dressing.
- Maintenance workers have ordered 1000 square feet of sod to work on 2 and 6 greens.
- They are in the process of finishing the cart path on 2. They sodded the original area and filled in with soil and seeded.
- With warmer temperatures, Larry has had the height cut on the greens a little higher.
- Playing well – smooth - green speeds are good for this time of the year. After this week, they will begin preparing the greens for summer speeds.
- Larry has received 4 requests for memorial trees.
 - Tom Morrow's Parents
 - Roy David Hickman
 - Tommy Romberg

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- Michael Ryan
- Pete asked about the status of Kenny Loeffler's tree once construction begins. Larry stated it still at the size where it can be transplanted.
- Amy mentioned that Tyson hosted the American Public Works Association Conference here in Helena. Some of the attendees visited BRGC and we received very positive comments about our course.
- The maintenance department is still short-staffed. High schoolers don't get out of school until June. Larry will have 3 new seasonal employees on board at beginning in June.
- Mike continues every year to increase the private cart repair. He is now getting requests for service work from the Brewers, Carroll College, and the Softball Association. Because of this, we are up 21% in revenues.
- Sue – what is the process in requesting a memorial tree? Long-time Helena resident and golf enthusiast Thelma Willems passed away. The ladies league would like to request a memorial tree in her honor. Larry will add to his list and visit with Sue about details.

Golf Professional Report

- Weather in April wasn't great. We did 3580 rounds in April which is slightly under our 10-year average of 3745. Last year we did 4552 round.
- Last year in May was not great; however this month is going well.
- Even though we are down about 2000 rounds this year, revenues are good. Season pass sales are up. Green fees are down due to decrease in play as a result of poor weather.
- Young adult pass sales are great. Last year we show \$1,500 in students under 20 passes in April. This year we are at almost \$8,000 in young adult pass sales. We have some radio ads going right now to increase young adult pass sales. We also have sent an e-blast and have put the information on our facebook page. The information for pass sales can be found under code 2206 – unrestricted student. **Scott will get with Elaine after this meeting to correct the name associated with that code.**
- While we are down 2000 in rounds, concessions in April (specifically food) increased by 15%. Scott believes this is due to the quality of food being served and our new menu items. The "Basket and a Bucket" promotion that we will do all year long has been a huge success.
- We will continue to be active in our advertising efforts.
- Event Schedule:
 - Tournament season is in full swing.
 - Kick-off Scramble was two weeks ago. There were 22 teams.
 - Helena Chamber Golf Tournament – Friday, May 19
 - Leagues have started – we have 18 teams on Mondays and 17 teams on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
 - Demo Days was held a couple weeks ago. While weather wasn't great, we still managed to do about \$10,000 in sales and are still feeling the residual effect.
 - Wine and Wedges will begin at the end of this month. Tuesday's class is almost full and Thursday's class is starting to fill up. We will have three sessions over the course of the summer.

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- Judy commended the clubhouse staff. We have a good group of people working at BRGC!

Men's League Report

- Men's league is going great – no issues.

Ladies League Report

- Last week was the first week of ladies league. There are many new people. Women's league didn't have as many returning golfers as they had hoped.
- There were almost 40 in attendance last week. We are already seeing some good scores.
- Sue stated she heard nothing but compliments on how great the golf course is. The boys working in the clubhouse were great!
- The 2017 Women's State Amateur Tournament will be held in Laurel, Montana this year. The tournament starts on July 20, 2017. The league will pay the registration costs for two people to go to this state tournament.

6. Public comment

- One of the golfers in Pete's group shot his age. Hank Lang shot an 84 his first time out.

7. Next meeting date – June 13, 2017

8. Future agenda items

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the Bill Roberts Golf Course Advisory meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

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citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov
316 North Park, Avenue, Room 440, Helena, MT 59623

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